(c) the number of new projects which are under exploration for increasing the production of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The production of crude oil and natural gas in the country during 2002-03 was 33.04 million metric tonne (MMT) and 31.39 Billion cubic metre (BCM), respectively, as against the production of 32.03 MMT and 29.72 BCM respectively, in the previous year.

(c) Following are the major schemes being implemented to enhance the hydrocarbon reserve base as well as to increase the oil and gas production.

(i) Implementation of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes to improve recovery factor of existing major fields; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also held in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) Production Sharing Contracts are in operation in 70 blocks offered under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and a 23 pre-NELP blocks.

(iii) Exploration in new areas, especially in deepwater and difficult frontier areas, as also exploration in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iv) Faster development of newly discovered fields and stepping up of use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc., in producing areas.

Oil Revenue Deficit

738. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated value of oil revenue deficit during the current financial year;

(b) what steps are being taken to contain and reduce the deficit;

(c) what are the main factors which contribute to this deficit; and

(d) what will be the level of deficit in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The estimated value of net oil imports during April-September 2003 was Rs. 34,663 crore. The estimated value of net oil imports in the coming years would *inter alia* depend upon the quantity of net imports, international prices of crude oil and petroleum products and exchange rate.

The country's oil import dependence is on account of the difference between the requirement of crude oil to meet the domestic demand of petroleum products and the indigenous production of crude oil. Steps taken by the Government to reduce the oil import dependence include the following:

(1) Efforts made to increase the production of crude oil and gas by:

(i) Increasing the exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy.

(ii) Improving the recovery factor from the existing major fields by implementing Enhance Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes.

(iii) Exploring new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also exploring in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iv) Faster development of newly discovered fields and increased use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, simulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(v) Acquiring acreages abroad.

(2) Mandating ethanol blending of petrol in certain States and Union Territories.

(3) Increasing awareness of the oil conservation measures.

Violation of sale agreement by ESSAR

†739. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.